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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Attached word file

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January 11, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

After three long years of litigation between Microsoft and the Justice Department, I was excited to hear that a settlement had been reached.

The agreement reached required extensive negotiations and is extremely comprehensive. The agreement requires many concessions from Microsoft that show the government got strong deal in this matter. For example, Microsoft has agreed not to enter into any agreement obligating any third party to distribute or promote any Windows technology exclusively or in a fixed percentage, subject to certain narrow exceptions where no competitive concern is present. Also, any violations of the settlement could bring a contempt of court charge against Microsoft.

The settlement is also a good development for consumers. Besides benefiting the economy, Microsoft will now be able to focus their resources on developing the next generation of products consumers have come to expect. Therefore, I hope your support of the settlement remains strong and this entire affair can be put behind everyone.

Sincerely,

Steve Marsel

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